

Monroe County Domestic Violence Task Force
McCloskey Conference Room—Showers City Hall
April 11, 2014

Attending: Lara Weaver, Monroe Country Prosecutor's Office; Sarah Hunt, Protective Order Project; Audrey Hicks, IU Helath Bloomington Hospital; Alphonso Manns, attorney in private practice; Sarah Dora; Maqube Reese, City of Bloomington; Beverly Calender-Anderson, City of Bloomington.

I Presenter, Caryn Burton of the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence joined the group by conference call for a web-based presentation. Following greetings by facilitator Lara Weaver and introductions of those present, Ms. Burton's began her presentation on "The Uses and Abuses of Technology and Social Media."

II. The issues of technology when addressing domestic violence issues is becoming more prominent because our laws are not keeping up with our technological advances. Technology can be helpful to DV victims by allowing quick communication to a large number of people or in situations when voice service doesn't work. However there are risks because messages can be falsified, spoofed or sent anonymously from a carriers website giving the impression that the victim is making contact with the perpetrator. Because abuse is electronic does not make it any less serious. All 50 states have laws that explicitly include electronic communication in their stalking and harassment laws.

The risks involved with GPS include family or shared plans allow abuser to access account and GPS of victim without consent. If the abuser has access to the phone, GPS can be activated without the victim's knowledge and tracking programs can be set to deliver alerts via texts message or email to the abuser. GPS systems have also been indicated in many crimes against children cases. Geofencing gives one the ability to set "boundaries" on a GPS chip so if the device enters or exits the boundaries, an alert will be sent to the requesting party. All of these apps allow a perpetrator to monitor a victim's location and activity which in turn allows them to maintain control.

There has been a huge growth in online social networking since 2005. These social networks can be a powerful resource for accessing information if used with care. Recognizing both the power and the danger inherent in social media Facebook partnered with the National Network to End Domestic Violence's SafetyNet Project in August, 2013 to publish *Privacy & Safety: A Guide for Survivors of Abuse*. It offers suggestions and simple tips on how to use Facebook safely. Facebook holds person who is being abusive accountable for their actions by banning them for a period of time.

Photo sharing websites are being used for and posting of revenge porn (posting compromising videos and photos of victims).

The Aspire News App was recommended as a tool for use by victims. The front page looks like any other news app. The "help" tab provides DV education and local resources. The "go" button activates an alert system, notifying selected contacts, local law

enforcement and service providers of a potentially violent situation. It begins logging audio and location data to provide documentation of an incident. This app is about 3 months old and there are others being developed.

If working with survivors of domestic violence, Caryn recommended developing a safety plan specifically regarding their tech use. Work with law enforcement, community members, & policy makers to hold abusers accountable, Visit www.nnedv.org for additional information or contact Caryn at cburton@icadvinc.org.

III. Next meeting: May 16, 2014.